

GENERAL

1. Bonn Anticipates Cuban Recognition of East Germany: Bonn believes that the Castro regime may extend diplomatic recognition to East Germany. Paul Verner, a high-ranking East German Communist party official now in Havana, attending a Cuban Communist party congress, could be the vehicle to get the Cubans to allow his government to establish a consulate general in Havana, and West Germany is trying to block such action.

In view of the breakdown on 5 August of West German - Cuban trade negotiations, Bonn has little bargaining power. It hopes, however, to persuade the Cubans to do no more than the UAR, which in September 1959 permitted the establishment of an East German Consulate General in Cairo but issued a public statement denying that this action constituted diplomatic recognition. East Germany now is recognized only by Yugoslavia and the bloc countries.

Cuban recognition could lead to a rupture of ties with West Germany. Bonn's policy--known as the "Hallstein doctrine"--calls for breaking off diplomatic relations with any country other than the USSR that recognizes the Ulbricht regime.

The trend toward closer Cuban economic and political ties with the bloc, which has developed at an increasingly rapid pace since the Cuban-Soviet trade and assistance agreements were signed last February, suggests that recognition of East Germany, with which Cuba already has economic agreements, could come at any time. Antonio Nunez Jimenez, executive secretary of Cuba's powerful Agrarian Reform Institute, went to East Germany as head of an economic mission early last month. During the visit he made a formal address at Humboldt University, saying: "We have declared that we desire diplomatic relations, not only with the Soviet Union, but with all socialist countries." [REDACTED]

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